



SOULE
CASTIELLO
MORALES
CAMPBELL

DUEL ON THE PLANET OF KNIVES!



— THE BLADE —



STAR WARS

TIMELINE

THE HIGH REPUBLIC



FALL OF THE JEDI



THE
PHANTOM
MENACE

ATTACK OF
THE CLONES

THE CLONE
WARS

REVENGE OF
THE SITH

REIGN OF THE EMPIRE



THE
BAD BATCH

SOLO:
A STAR WARS
STORY

OBI-WAN
KENOBI

AGE OF REBELLION



REBELS

ANDOR

ROGUE ONE:
A STAR WARS
STORY

A NEW HOPE

THE EMPIRE
STRIKES BACK

RETURN OF
THE JEDI

THE NEW REPUBLIC



THE BOOK OF
BOBA FETT

THE
MANDALORIAN

RISE OF THE FIRST ORDER



RESISTANCE

THE FORCE
AWAKENS

THE LAST JEDI

THE RISE OF
SKYWALKER

THE HIGH REPUBLIC

THE BLADE

Part III

Jedi Porter Engle, master of the lightsaber, earning him the label of THE BLADE OF BARDOTTA, and his sister, Barash, are tasked with breaking a siege between factions and ending a conflict in the Tammuz sector.

But not all is as it seems on Gansevor, the planet of knives, as a group of mercenaries arrive to the battlefield. Not everyone is telling the truth, and Porter and Barash need to figure out who they can trust and fast....

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

**MARCO CASTIELLO
& JETHRO MORALES**
Artists

JIM CAMPBELL
Colorist

VC's TRAVIS LANHAM
Letterer

GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & FRANK MARTIN
Cover Artists

**VALERIO GIANGIORDANO & CARLOS LOPEZ;
LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO**
Variant Cover Artists

CARLOS LAO
Book Design

MIKEY J. BASSO
Assistant Editor

DANNY KHAZEM
Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Senior Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor **ROBERT SIMPSON**

Creative Director **MICHAEL SIGLAIN**

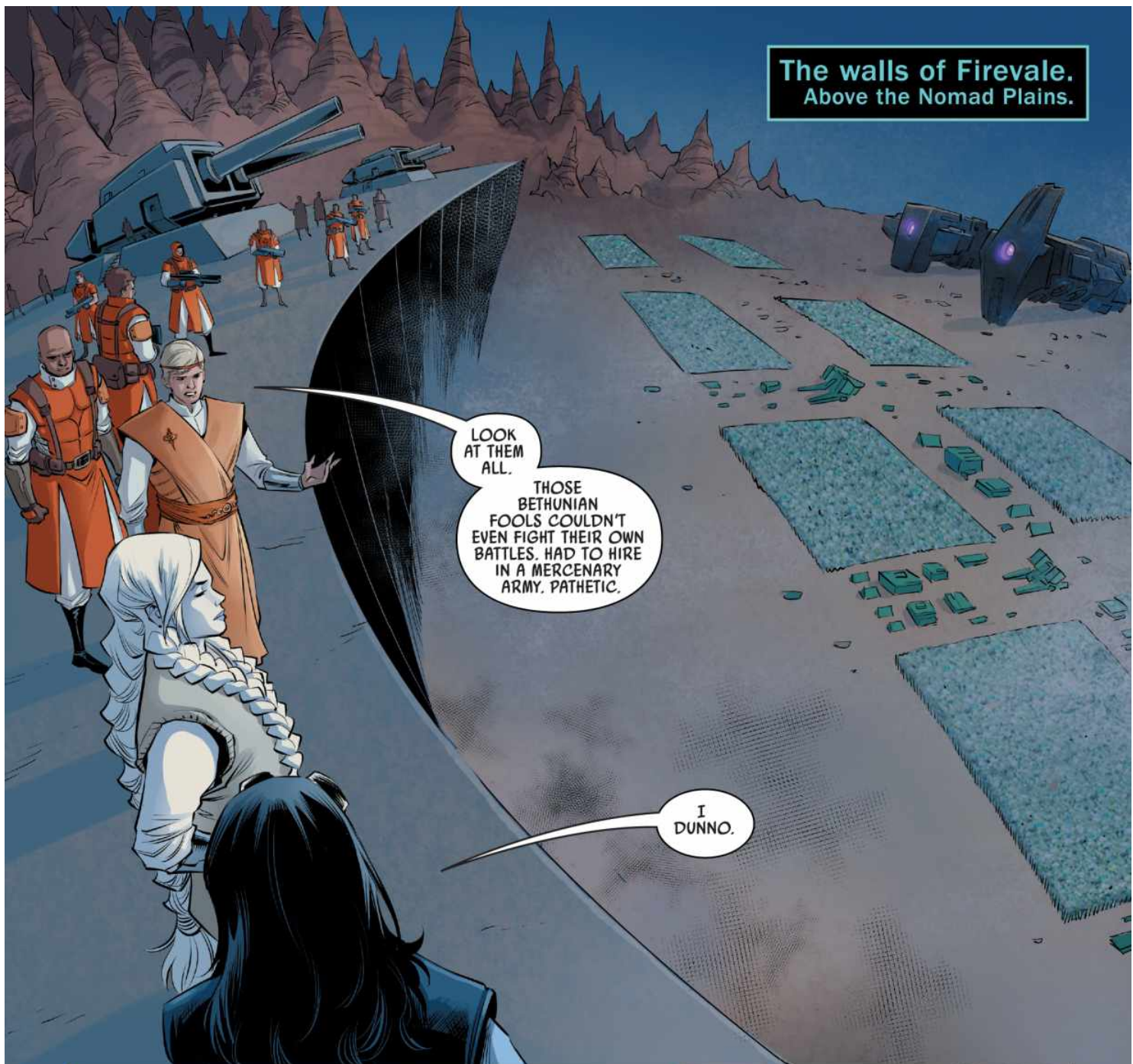
Art Director **TROY ALDERS**

Lucasfilm Story Group **MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO &
EMILY SHKOUKANI**

Creative Art Manager **PHIL SZOSTAK**



The walls of Firevale.
Above the Nomad Plains.



"LOOKS
PRETTY
IMPRESSIVE
TO ME."



TELL US
ABOUT YOUR
DEFENSES.

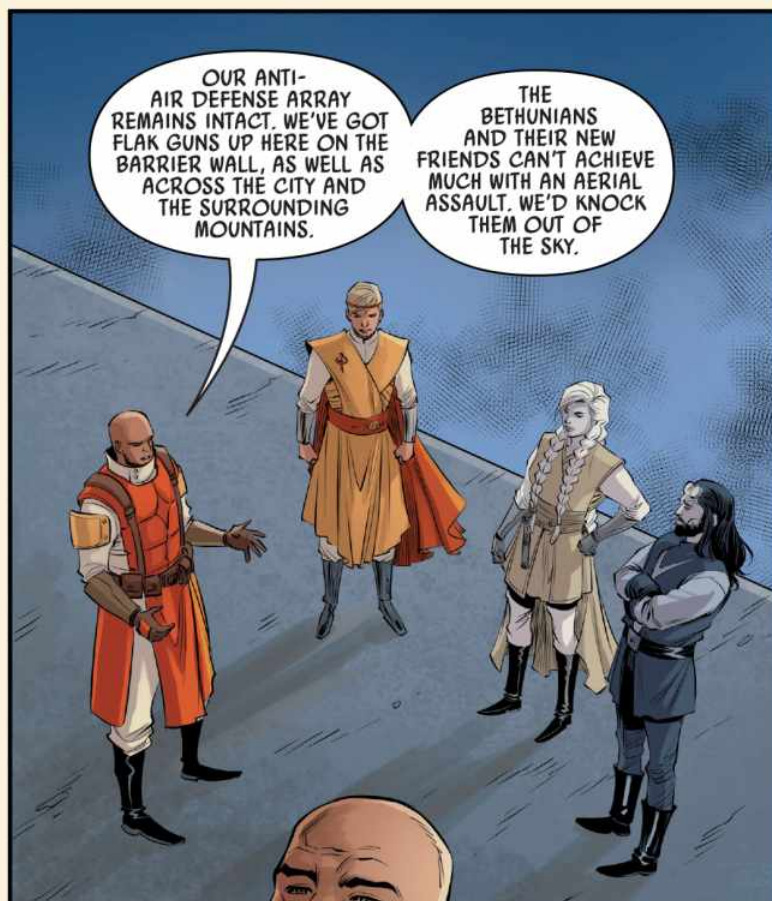


I'D HAVE SAID WE COULD HOLD AGAINST THE BETHUNIANS FOR A GOOD LONG TIME YET, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SUPPLIES YOU TWO BROUGHT IN.

BUT NOW...WITH THESE **KILLERS** THEY'VE HIRED...IT'S A DIFFERENT GAME.

COLONEL, CAN YOU GIVE THE JEDI AN ASSESSMENT?

OF COURSE, MY PRINCE.



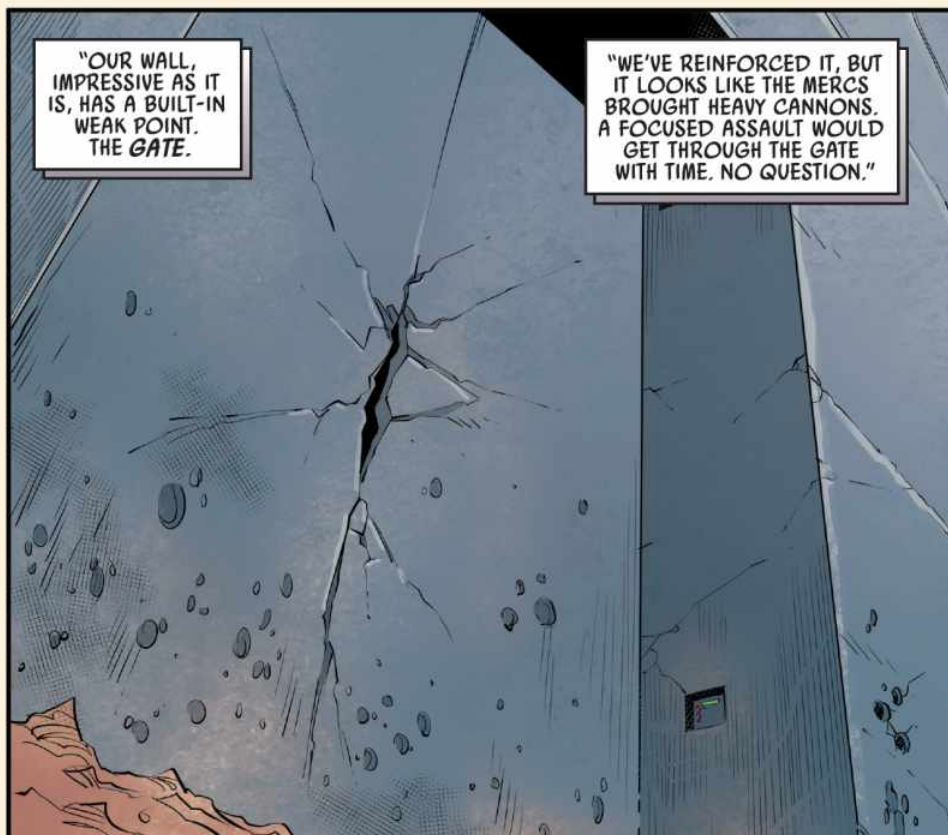
OUR ANTI-AIR DEFENSE ARRAY REMAINS INTACT. WE'VE GOT FLAK GUNS UP HERE ON THE BARRIER WALL, AS WELL AS ACROSS THE CITY AND THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS.

THE BETHUNIANS AND THEIR NEW FRIENDS CAN'T ACHIEVE MUCH WITH AN AERIAL ASSAULT. WE'D KNOCK THEM OUT OF THE SKY.



IF THEY WANT IN, THEY'LL HAVE TO COME THROUGH THE WALL.

BUT THAT, OF COURSE, IS THE PROBLEM.



"OUR WALL, IMPRESSIVE AS IT IS, HAS A BUILT-IN WEAK POINT. THE **GATE**."

"WE'VE REINFORCED IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE MERCS BROUGHT HEAVY CANNONS. A FOCUSED ASSAULT WOULD GET THROUGH THE GATE WITH TIME. NO QUESTION."



HOW **MUCH** TIME, COLONEL?



"NOT AS MUCH AS WE'D LIKE, MASTER JEDI."



PORTER--
GET DOWN THERE,
STOP THIS. BUY ME
AS MUCH TIME AS
YOU CAN.

I NEED
TO FIND THE
TRUTH.

ABSOLUTELY,
BARASH.



YOU NEED TO
FIND THE TRUTH? I
TOLD YOU THE
TRUTH, JEDI.

THE BETHUNIANS
HAVE COME HERE TO
RECLAIM THEIR PRINCESS,
MY WIFE...BUT SHE CAME HERE
OF HER OWN FREE WILL. SHE
HAS CLAIMED ASYLUM
IN FIREVALE.

DO YOU NOT
BELIEVE ME?



MY PRINCE!
WE MUST GET TO
SAFETY! THE NEXT
SHELL COULD LAND
IN OUR MIDST!



I BELIEVE IN YOU,
PRINCE COLDEN.
I BELIEVE IN
EVERYONE.

BUT THIS
HAS BECOME
A MATTER OF
LIFE AND
DEATH.

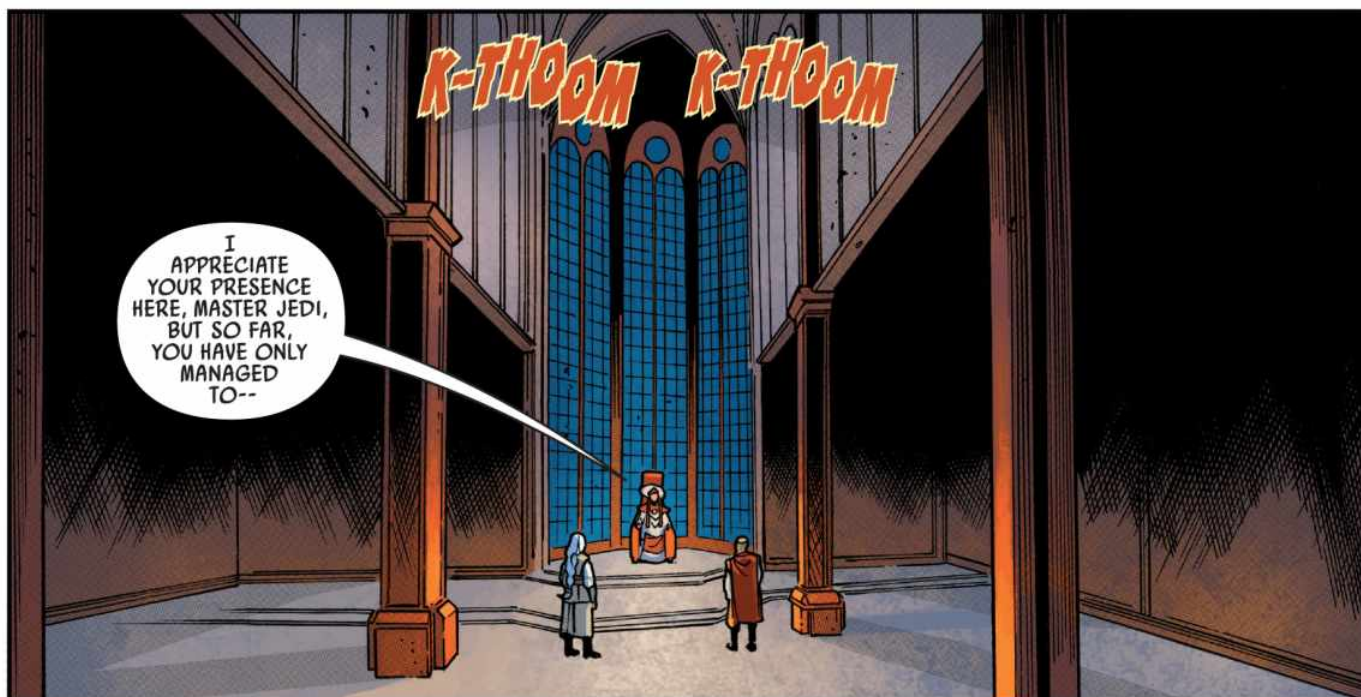


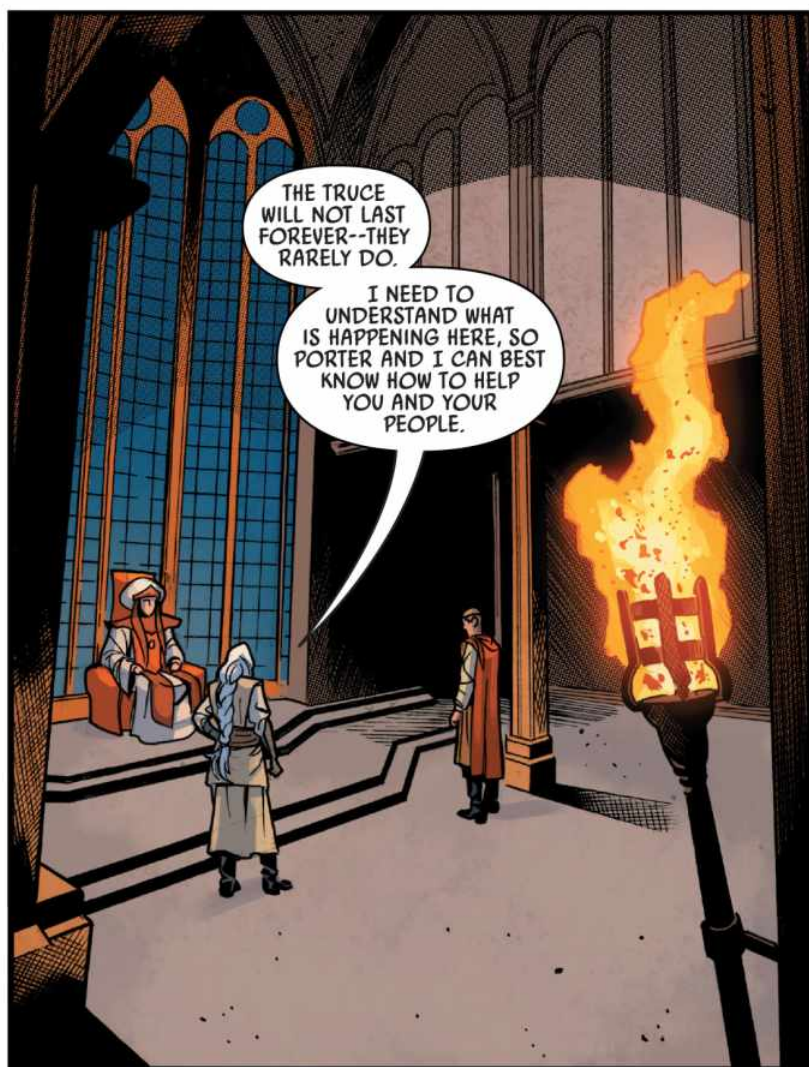
I
NEED TO BE
CERTAIN.











THE TRUCE
WILL NOT LAST
FOREVER--THEY
RARELY DO.

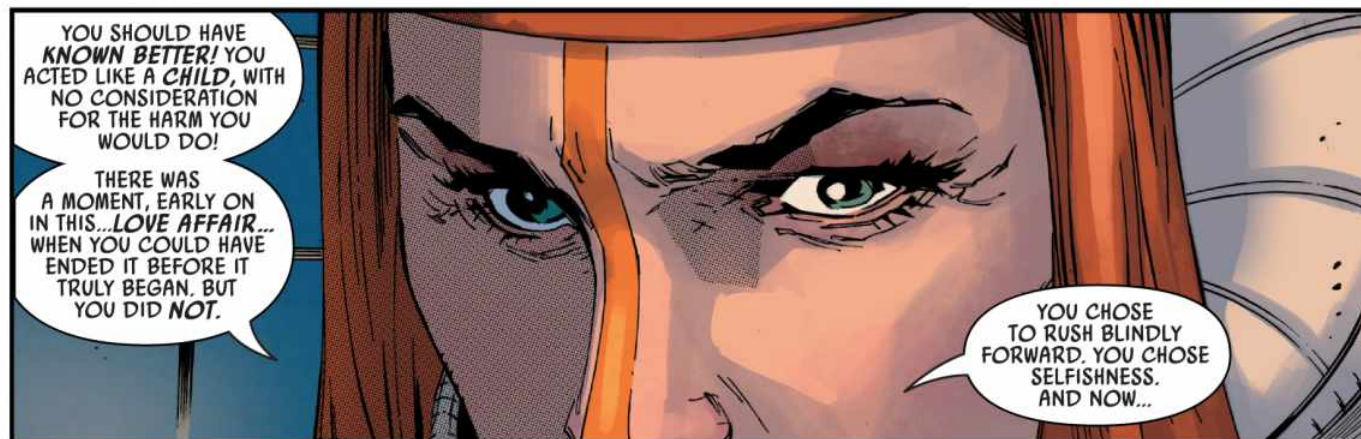
I NEED TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT
IS HAPPENING HERE, SO
PORTER AND I CAN BEST
KNOW HOW TO HELP
YOU AND YOUR
PEOPLE.



WHAT IS HAPPENING
HERE IS THAT MY
SON BROUGHT THIS
CONFLICT TO MY CITY'S
DOORSTEP. HE HAS
PUT EVERY CITIZEN
OF FIREVALE
AT RISK.

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE
DONE, MOTHER? I
BROUGHT THE **WOMAN**
I LOVE, MY **WEDDED**
WIFE, TO THE ONLY
PLACE I KNEW WHERE
WE COULD BE
TOGETHER AND
SAFE.

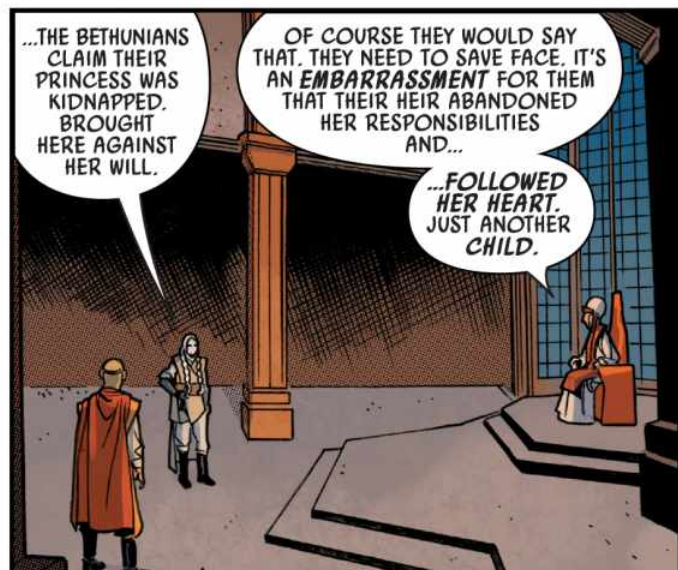
THE
BETHUNIANS WOULD
NOT HAVE ALLOWED
US TO BE TOGETHER. I
FOUND A SOLUTION--A
CHANCE AT A BETTER
LIFE. WAS THAT
WRONG?



YOU SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN BETTER! YOU
ACTED LIKE A **CHILD**, WITH
NO CONSIDERATION
FOR THE HARM YOU
WOULD DO!

THERE WAS
A MOMENT, EARLY ON
IN THIS...**LOVE AFFAIR**...
WHEN YOU COULD HAVE
ENDED IT BEFORE IT
TRULY BEGAN. BUT
YOU DID NOT.

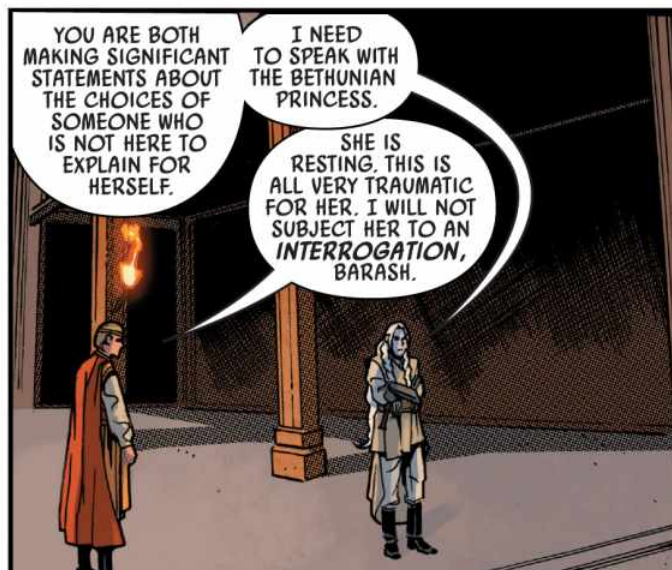
YOU CHOSE
TO RUSH BLINDLY
FORWARD. YOU CHOSE
SELFISHNESS.
AND NOW...



...THE BETHUNIANS
CLAIM THEIR
PRINCESS WAS
KIDNAPPED.
BROUGHT
HERE AGAINST
HER WILL.

OF COURSE THEY WOULD SAY
THAT. THEY NEED TO SAVE FACE. IT'S
AN **EMBARRASSMENT** FOR THEM
THAT THEIR HEIR ABANDONED
HER RESPONSIBILITIES
AND...

...**FOLLOWED**
HER HEART.
JUST ANOTHER
CHILD.



YOU ARE BOTH
MAKING SIGNIFICANT
STATEMENTS ABOUT
THE CHOICES OF
SOMEONE WHO
IS NOT HERE TO
EXPLAIN FOR
HERSELF.

I NEED
TO SPEAK WITH
THE BETHUNIAN
PRINCESS.

SHE IS
RESTING. THIS IS
ALL VERY TRAUMATIC
FOR HER. I WILL NOT
SUBJECT HER TO AN
INTERROGATION,
BARASH.





THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. I HATE THAT MY COMING HERE IS CAUSING IT PAIN.

THEN WHY DID YOU COME? THIS CAN'T BE A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO YOU.

MANY ON THIS PLANET HOLD ILL WILL TOWARD THIS CITY. THEY POSSESS A RESOURCE CRUCIAL TO THIS WORLD--THE **BAUDRAXITE CRYSTAL**--AND THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS...GENEROUS WITH IT.



MY PEOPLE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT A FIREVALE PRINCE AS THEIR FUTURE KING.

COLDEN AND I COULDN'T BE TOGETHER IN BETHUNE. OUR CHOICE WAS TO FLEE, ABANDON EVERYTHING OR...COME HERE AND THROW OURSELVES ON THE MERCY OF HIS MOTHER.



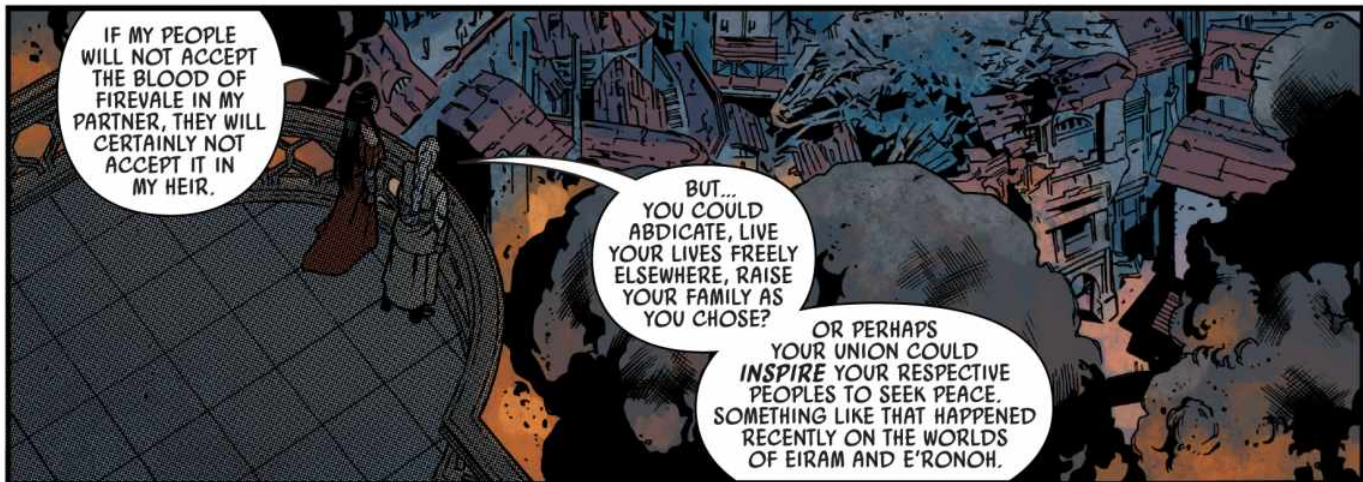
BUT YOU CHOSE TO DO IT SO **ABRUPTLY**. SURELY IF YOU HAD TAKEN MORE TIME, ENTERED INTO **DISCUSSIONS** WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH CITIES...

WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME, BARASH.

WHY?



BECAUSE...



Coruscant.
The Jedi Temple.
Fifteen years earlier.

I TOLD
YOU THEY'D
BRING US BACK
TOGETHER,
PORTER.

AFTER WHAT
YOU PULLED OUT
ON DANTOOINE, THEY
DIDN'T HAVE MUCH
CHOICE, EH?

EH, I
WAS JUST
HAVING SOME
FUN.

I'M GLAD, BARASH. IT NEVER FELT THE SAME WITHOUT YOU
AROUND. I TRIED TO JUST WORK HARD, TO NOT THINK
ABOUT IT...BUT IT WAS JUST *DIFFERENT*.

IT WAS THE
SAME FOR ME. BUT
WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN
NOW. THAT'S WHAT
MATTERS.

CAN I...
TRUST YOU WITH
SOMETHING,
PORTER?

OF
COURSE,
BARASH.
YOU'RE
MY BEST
FRIEND.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN WE FIRST
MET?

OF
COURSE. THE
FIRST DAY OF
LIGHTSABER
TRAINING.

YOU WERE
UPSET. TOLD ME
YOU DIDN'T NEED
FRIENDS. PROVED
YOU WRONG
THERE, HUH?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE.

SOMETHING
WE'VE NEVER
TALKED
ABOUT





PORTER.
CONVINCE
THE BETHUNIANS
TO LEAVE, TO
RETURN TO
THEIR CITY.

THIS
IS WRONG.
THIS WHOLE
THING IS
WRONG.

ARE YOU
CERTAIN?



I AM
CERTAIN.



HEY. DO ME A
FAVOR. TELL YOUR
BOSSSES IT'S TIME
TO LEAVE.

TELL THEM IF THEY STAY, THEIR
AMBITIONS WILL END IN FAILURE
AND LOSS, POSSIBLY DEATH
AND PAIN.

THEY DON'T
WANT THAT. I
DON'T WANT THAT.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T
WANT IT EITHER.
WOULDN'T IT BE
EASIER...



...IF WE
JUST SKIPPED
ALL OF
THAT?



POMPOUS, SELF-RIGHTEOUS JEDI. WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE? WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT?

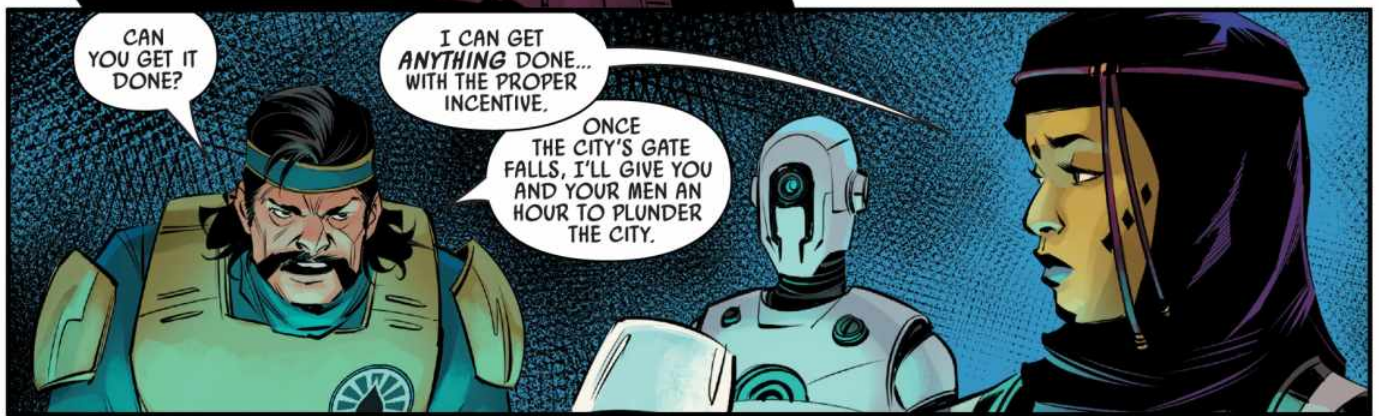
THEY BOTH HAVE TO DIE. IT'S THE ONLY WAY THIS WORKS.

KILLING JEDI!...IT'S NO SMALL THING.

ONE'S EASY ENOUGH, BUT YOU KILL ONE, MORE COME. IN NUMBERS, THEY CAN BE... CHALLENGING. LEAPING AND FLIPPING AND FLINGING THOSE BLASTED SWORDS.

GANSEVOR ISN'T PART OF THE GALACTIC COMMS NETWORK YET. THE JEDI CAN'T REPORT IN TO CORUSCANT. WE CAN DENY THEY WERE EVER HERE.

FOR ONCE, THE REPUBLIC'S STINGINESS WILL COME BACK TO BITE IT.



CAN YOU GET IT DONE?

I CAN GET ANYTHING DONE... WITH THE PROPER INCENTIVE.

ONCE THE CITY'S GATE FALLS, I'LL GIVE YOU AND YOUR MEN AN HOUR TO PLUNDER THE CITY.



ONE HOUR? IT'S A BIG CITY, FIELD MARSHAL TOZEN.

PERHAPS... TWELVE. YES. TWELVE HOURS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT.



FINE. TWELVE.

JUST GET IT DONE.





WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THEY'RE FIRING OVER THE WALL!

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US ALL!



YOU SAID THE ATTACKS WOULD STOP.

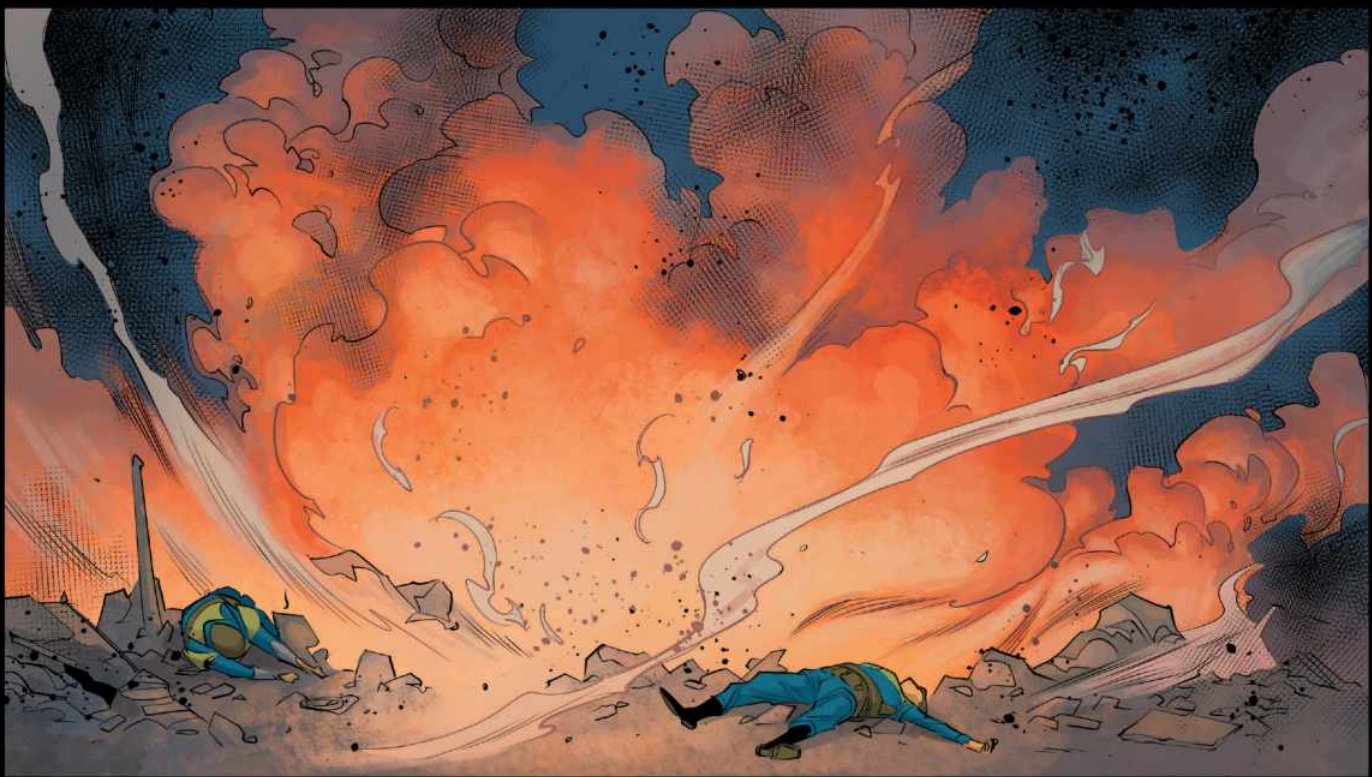
DO NOT BE AFRAID.

WE'RE NOT AFRAID, JEDI--WE'RE REALISTIC.

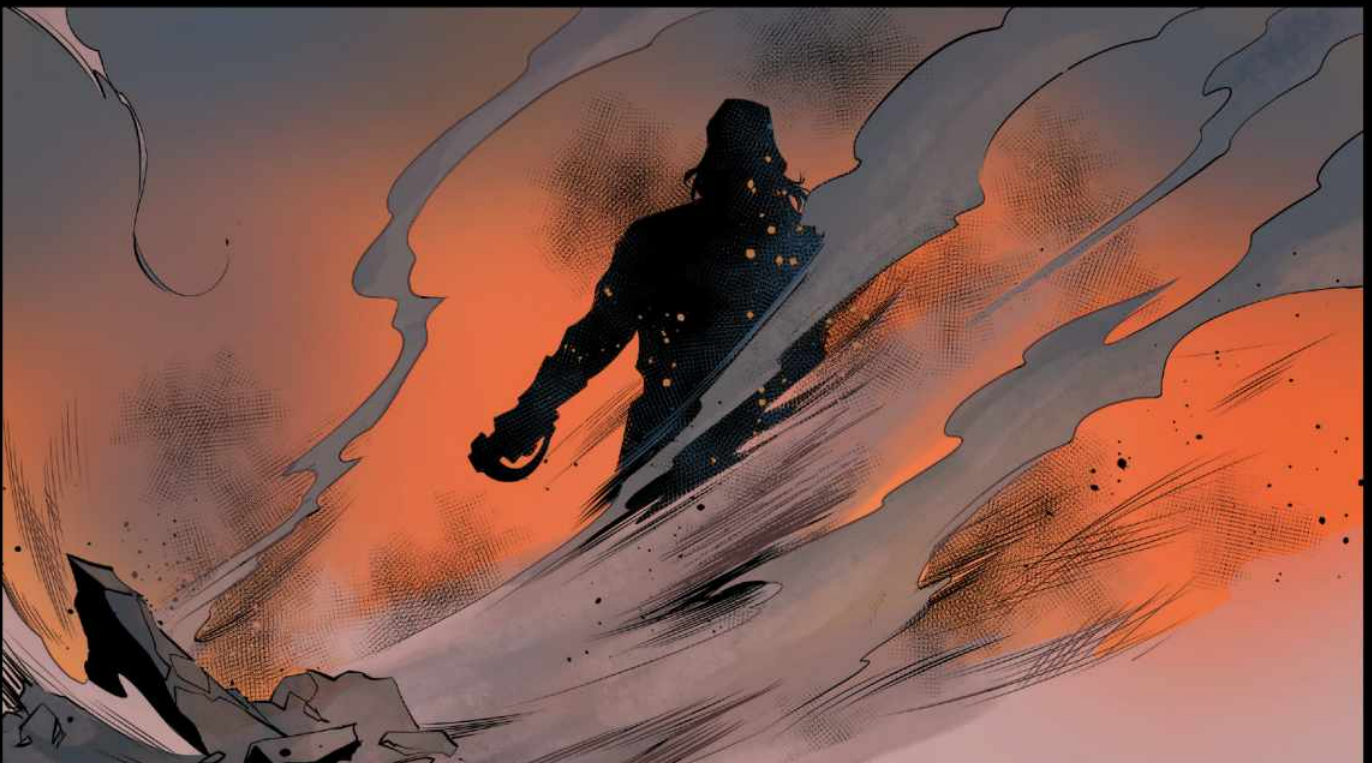


WE TOLD YOU UP ON THE WALL. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME NOW.

THE CITY'S DEFENSES CANNOT HOLD AGAINST THE FIREPOWER THAT MERCENARY ARMY CAN BRING TO BEAR.



PERHAPS
YOUR CITY'S
DEFENSES CANNOT
HOLD, PRINCE
COLDEN.



"BUT PORTER
ENGLE CAN."

FINE.

WE'LL
DO IT THIS
WAY.

ZZZZK



NEXT ISSUE!



THE HIGH REPUBLIC #7

COMING SOON

CHECKLIST

- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #1
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #2
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC: THE BLADE #1
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #3
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC: THE BLADE #2
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #4
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC: THE BLADE #3
- ☒ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #5
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC: THE BLADE #4
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #6
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #7
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #8
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #9
- ☐ THE HIGH REPUBLIC #10

ON SALE MARCH

By Charles Soule
and Jethro Morales

Cover by Giuseppine Camuncoli

STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM